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General Awareness

Instructions

For the following questions answer them individually

Question 1

Which one of the following objectives is NOT embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

- A Liberty of thought
- B Liberty of movement
- C Liberty of belief
- D Liberty of expression

Answer: B

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Question 2

The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to _____.

- A draw the boundaries between India and Pakistan
- B give effect to the Independence Bill
- C solve the problems of minorities in India
- D enquire into the riots in East Bengal

Answer: A

Question 3

Who, in India, has the power to summon or prorogue either House of the Parliament?

- A President
- B Home Minister
- C Prime Minister
- D Vice President

Answer: A

Question 4

The Indian Supreme Court's judgement on triple talaq refers to which of its forms?

- A Talaq-e-Ahsan
- B Talaq-e-Hasan
- C Talaq-e-Biddat
- D All of the above

Answer: C

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Question 5

The number '1729' is considered as an interesting number as it is the smallest natural number that can be written as the sum of cubes in two ways - sum of the cubes of 12 and 1 and the sum of the cubes of 10 and 9. What is this number '1729' popularly known as?

- A Landau-Ramanujan Constant
- B Hardy-Ramanujan Number
- C Ramanujan-Soldner Number
- D None of the above

Answer: B

Question 6

The key document that legally entitles registered households to apply for work under MGNREGA is _____.

- A Aadhar Card
- B Ration Card
- C PAN Card
- D Job card

Answer: D

Question 7

"Halfway to Heaven" is the slogan adopted to promote tourism by which Indian state?

- A Meghalaya
- B Jammu and Kashmir
- C Sikkim
- D Uttarakhand

Answer: A

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Question 8

'Adam's Apple' is the common name for which organ in the human body?

- A Esophagus
- B Thyroid cartilage
- C Thoracic cavity
- D Phalange

Answer: B

Question 9

Which tribal community in Madhya Pradesh celebrates the Bhagoria festival?

- A Bhil
- B Gond
- C Mariya
- D Bhariya

Answer: A

Question 10

In February 2017, ISRO launched PSLV-C37 which carried 104 satellites belonging to seven countries, including India. How many of these were Indian satellites?

- A 96
- B 3
- C 1
- D 4

Answer: B

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Question 11

Who has authored the book 'The Remembered Village'?

- A M.N. Srinivas
- B Iravati Karve
- C T.N. Madan
- D G.S. Ghurye

Answer: A

Question 12

The recipient of the Nobel Prize for Economics in the year 2017 contributed to which field of research?

- A Macroeconomic theory
- B Development Economics
- C Behavioural Economics
- D All of the above

Answer: C

Question 13

The first Census of independent India was conducted in the year _____.

- A 1950
- B 1951
- C 1949
- D 1948

Answer: B

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Question 14

Which indicator(s) is/are used by the International Food Policy Research Institute to compute the 'Global Hunger Index Report'?

- A Undernourishment
- B Child stunting
- C Child mortality
- D All of the above

Answer: D

Question 15

For which of the following parameters does the Census of India NOT collect data?

- A Household size
- B Household ownership status
- C Income
- D Occupation

Answer: C

Question 16

Which men's single title did badminton player Kidambi Srikanth win in 2017?

- A Badminton World Championship
- B All England Open Badminton Championship
- C French Open Superseries Badminton
- D Dubai World Superseries

Answer: C

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Question 17

The control of a significant share of the supply or production of a particular good or service by a firm is called _____.

- A crony capitalism
- B monopsony
- C monopoly
- D None of the above

Answer: C

Question 18

Tenali Raman was to _____ as Birbal was to Akbar.

- A Raghunatha Nayak
- B Krishna Deva Raya
- C Krishnaraj Wodiyar
- D Mahendra Varman

Answer: B

Question 19

Consider the following three statements and indicate which of these is/are CORRECT

- i) Sex is a biological concept; Gender is a social construct
- ii) Sex is a natural or biological feature; Gender is a cultural or learned feature
- iii) Both terms mean the same and can be used interchangeably

- A (i) and (ii)
- B Only (ii)
- C (i) and (iii)
- D Only (iii)

Answer: A

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Question 20

Vishaka Guidelines are a set of procedural guidelines that apply to which type of criminal cases?

- A Paedophilia
- B Dowry deaths
- C Human Trafficking
- D Sexual harassment of women at workplace

Answer: D

Question 21

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has been launched for _____.

- A providing housing loan to poor people at cheaper interest rates
- B providing financial help to small enterprises in rural areas
- C promoting financial inclusion in the country
- D promoting women's self help groups in backward areas

Answer: C

Question 22

In which Indian city is the world's first solar powered airport located?

- A Delhi
- B Udaipur
- C Jaipur
- D Kochi

Answer: D

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Question 23

Which of the following sports involves animals?

- A Jallikattu
- B Mallakhamb
- C Lagori
- D Vallamkali

Answer: A

Question 24

The 'Apu Trilogy' was directed by _____.

- A Bimal Roy
- B Ritwik Ghatak
- C Satyajit Ray
- D Mrinal Sen

Answer: C

Question 25

The Padmapani and Vajrapani paintings are found in which caves in India?

- A Elephanta Caves, Maharashtra
- B Udayagiri Caves, Odissa
- C Badami Caves, Karnataka
- D Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra

Answer: D

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Question 26

The word 'Zeta' refers to

- A a letter in the Greek alphabet
- B a national currency
- C a mathematical symbol
- D the name of a galaxy

Answer: A

Question 27

'Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan' is a national campaign to _____.

- A rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with shelter and livelihood opportunities.
- B free bonded labourers of their bondage and rehabilitate them
- C rehabilitate sex workers through alternative sources of livelihood
- D eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate manual scavengers

Answer: D

Question 28

The United States of America declared its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in 2017. What was the stated reason for their withdrawal?

- A Unfair benefits to India and China due to the Agreement
- B Loss of its status within the United Nations to India and China
- C Non-inclusion of India and China in the Agreement
- D Lack of penalties for India and China in the Agreement

Answer: A

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Question 29

Find the odd one out.

- A Punam Raut
- B Harmanpreet Kaur
- C Mitali Raj
- D Anjum Chopra

Answer: D

Question 30

Considering the chronological order, identify the social media site that is the **NEWEST** among those given here.

- A Instagram
- B Twitter
- C Facebook
- D Snapchat

Answer: D

Question 31

'Pledge for 9' is the slogan for which national programme?

- A Janani Suraksha Yojana
- B Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana
- C Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- D Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram

Answer: C

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Question 32

According to the 2011 Population Census, which of the following groups of states occupies the **THREE** top places with respect to literacy?

- A Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram
- B Kerala, Chandigarh, Goa
- C Kerala, Mizoram, Tripura
- D Kerala, Goa, West Bengal

Answer: A

Question 33

Who was awarded the Jnanpith award in 2017?

- A Shankha Ghosh

- B Bhalchandra Nemade
- C Amarkant
- D Krishna Sobti

Answer: D

Question 34

Who first deciphered the edicts or inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka?

- A Georg Bihler
- B William Jones
- C Max Mueller
- D James Prinsep

Answer: D

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Question 35

According to the WHO 2017 Report maximum number of Indians suffer from _____.

- A depressive disorders
- B drug use disorders
- C schizophrenia
- D anxiety disorders

Answer: A

Question 36

Match List I (Book) and List II (Author) and select the correct answers using the codes given below:

| List I(Books) | List II(Authors) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| a. In Custody | (i) Amartya Sen |
| b. Sea of Poppies | (ii) Jhumpa Lahiri |
| c. The Argumentative Indian | (iii) Anita Desai |
| d. Unaccustomed Earth | (iv) Amitav Ghosh |

- A a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii
- B a-iv, b-i, c-ii, d-iii
- C a-i, b-iii, c-iv, d-ii
- D a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i

Answer: A

Question 37

Which of the following represents billion bytes?

- A Gigabytes
- B Megabytes
- C Kilobytes
- D Terabytes

Answer: A

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Question 38

A low sex ratio in a particular place can indicate _____.

- A practice of significant sex selective foeticide
- B high male in-migration
- C Both of the above
- D None of the above

Answer: C

Question 39

Which international body benchmarks countries on the 'Global Gender Gap Index'?

- A World Economic Forum
- B UN Women
- C The World Bank
- D World Health Organisation

Answer: A

Question 40

One of the ways in which the National Food Security Act empowers women is by _____.

- A allocation of 10 kg extra food grain for women headed households
- B issue of ration card in the name of the eldest woman in eligible households
- C issuing separate ration cards for all women in eligible households with dependent children
- D None of the above

Answer: B

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Maths & Logical Reasoning

Instructions

For the following questions answer them individually

Question 41

Which of the following dates fall on the same day of the week in any given month?

- A 4 and 24
- B 6 and 30
- C 13 and 27
- D 11 and 22

Answer: C

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Question 42

If 15 August 1905 was a Tuesday, which day was 15 August in 1895?

- A Friday
- B Wednesday
- C Thursday
- D Tuesday

Answer: C

Question 43

The following table gives the percentage distribution of population of five states, P, Q, R, S and T on the basis of poverty line and gender. If the male population above poverty line for state R is 1.9 million, then the total population of state R is?

| State | Percentage of Population below the Poverty Line | Proportion of Males and Females | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | Below Poverty Line | Above Poverty Line |
| | | M : F | M : F |
| P | 35 | 5 : 6 | 6 : 7 |
| Q | 25 | 3 : 5 | 4 : 5 |
| R | 24 | 1 : 2 | 2 : 3 |
| S | 19 | 3 : 2 | 4 : 3 |
| T | 15 | 5 : 3 | 3 : 2 |

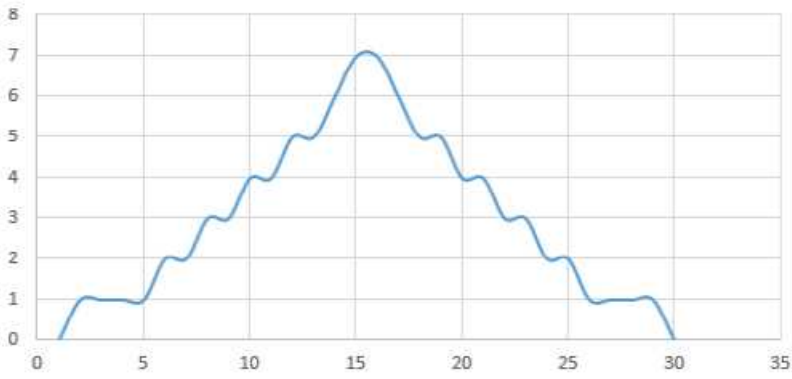
- A 6.25 million
- B 5.35 million
- C 4.5 million
- D 4.85 million

Answer: A

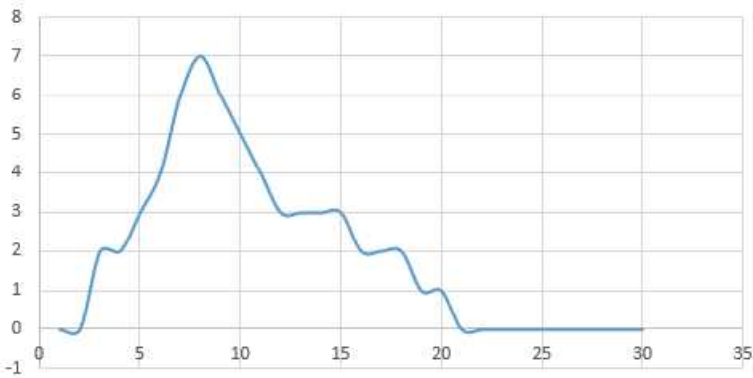
Question 44

The figures given here show three distributions. Based on these figures, which of the following statements is FALSE?

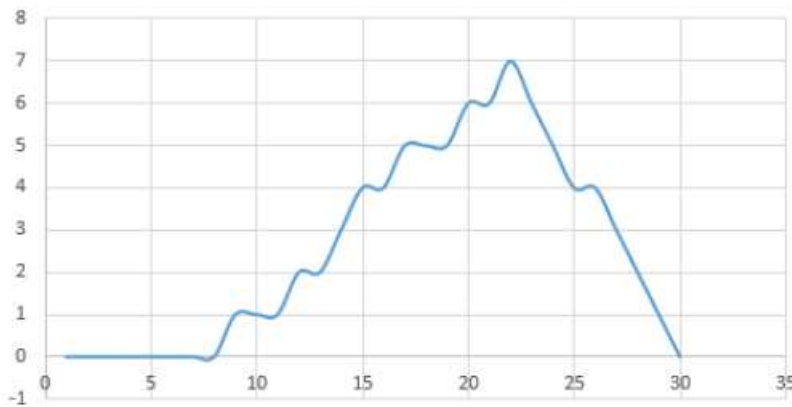
Distribution-1



Distribution-2



Distribution - 3



- A In Distribution-1, Mean=Median
- B In Distribution-3, Mean>Median
- C In Distribution-2, Mean
- D Mean for Distribution-2 > Mean for Distribution-3

Answer: D

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Question 45

How many times do the hands of a clock overlap in 24 hours?

- A 11
- B 22
- C 24
- D 12

Answer: B

Question 46

If $\tan(A) = 0$ and $\sin(A) = 0$. what is the value of $\cos(A)$?

- A Inf
- B 1
- C 0
- D Undefined

Answer: B

Question 47

1 ml. salt is added to 19 ml. of distilled water. What is the percentage of salt in the dilution?

- A 10%
- B 5%
- C 4%
- D 0.05%

Answer: B

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Question 48

Which number should come next in the following series:

4 , 12 , 28 , 52 , ____

- A 92
- B 84
- C 108
- D None of the above

Answer: B

Question 49

Of the given FOUR sets of five numbers each, find the ODD ONE out.

- A 1, 2, 19, 23, 11

- B 841, 169, 9, 361, 4
C 23, 29, 7, 5, 27
D 1, 121, 169, 289, 25

Answer: C

Question 50

For a series of 5 numbers, the mean is 20, the median and mode are both 10, the highest number in the series is 50 and one of the numbers is 20. Find the number of times the modal value appears in the series.

- A 4
B 1
C 2
D 3

Answer: D

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Question 51

From the data given in the table, which of the following two statements is TRUE:

- 1) Average annual temperatures for year 2011 are more than average annual temperatures for years 2013.
2) Average annual temperatures for year 2010 are more than average annual temperatures for years 2012.

| Average Monthly Temperatures in Degree C | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|------|---------|
| | January | April | July | October |
| 2010 | 14 | 32 | 24 | 28 |
| 2011 | 12 | 30 | 22 | 30 |
| 2012 | 16 | 32 | 24 | 32 |
| 2013 | 16 | 34 | 24 | 30 |

- A Both statements are true
B Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true
C Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false
D Both statements are false

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1):

Average annual temperature in year 2011 = $(12 + 30 + 22 + 30)/4 = 23.5$

Average annual temperature in year 2013 = $(16 + 32 + 24 + 32)/4 = 21$

Average annual temperature in year 2011 > Average annual temperature in year 2013

Statement 1) is true.

Statement 2):

Average annual temperature in year 2010 = $(14 + 32 + 24 + 28)/4 = 24.5$

Average annual temperature in year 2012 = $(16 + 34 + 24 + 30)/4 = 26$

Average annual temperature in year 2010 < Average annual temperature in year 2012

Statement 2) is false.

Question 52

Find the odd one out from the following list of numbers:

161 , 203 , 104 , 112 , 91

- A 91
- B 104
- C 112
- D None of the above

Answer: B

Question 53

Mohit was looking for his father. He went 90 meters to the East before turning to his right. He went 20 meters before turning to his right again to look for his father in his uncle's house 30 meters away from this point. His father was not there. From here he went 100 meters to the North before meeting his father in a street. How far away did the son meet his father from the starting point?

- A 140 meters
- B 260 meters
- C 100 meters
- D 80 meters

Answer: C

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Question 54

Fill in the missing number in the series:

7 , 13 , 21 , _____ , 43 , 57

- A 35
- B 30
- C 31
- D 34

Answer: C

Question 55

There are a 100 students in a graduating class. Of these, 80 students have passed (let us call this Set A), 20 have failed (let us call this Set B). 90 students from this class got a job (let us call this Set C). Given this information, which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A Set C intersects Set A but not Set B
- B Set B is a subset of Set C

- C Set A is a subset of Set C
- D Set C is a subset of the Union of Set A and Set B

Answer: D

Question 56

If all angles in a triangle are equal, which of the following statements is true?

- A All sides are equal
- B Opposite sides are equal
- C Adjacent sides are equal
- D No side is equal to another

Answer: A

Explanation:

If all angles in a triangle are equal then all sides of triangle will be equal.

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Question 57

If the ratio of the number of men to the number of women on a committee of 30 is 7:8, how many members are women?

- A 7
- B 8
- C 16
- D 14

Answer: C

Question 58

Find the missing set of letters in the following series
BAD , DAB , CAE , EAC , _____

- A DAE
- B DAC
- C CAD
- D DAF

Answer: D

Question 59

If all apples are red, and some apples are juicy, which of the following statements is true?

- i) All apples are juicy.
- ii) Some juicy apples are red.
- iii) Some red apples are juicy.

- A First statement

- B Second and Third Statement
- C Third Statement
- D None of the above

Answer: C

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Question 60

Father's age and daughter's age add upto 55. Daughter's age is reverse of her father's and difference in their ages is more than 10. How old is the daughter?

- A 21
- B 14
- C 23
- D 32

Answer: B

Question 61

The canteen sells 4 types of chocolates - A,B,C,D. A costs Rs.10, B costs Rs.5, C costs Rs.8 and D costs Rs.11. I have Rs.100 with me to spend. If I buy, 4 chocolates of type D and 5 chocolates of type C, then how many chocolates of type A and B can I buy so that I use the maximum of the Rs.100 that I have.

- A 3 of Type B and 1 of Type A
- B 2 of Type B and 1 of Type A
- C 1 of Type B and 1 of Type A
- D None of the above

Answer: C

Question 62

If the sequence 2, 4, 2, 4, 2, 4, ... continues as shown, then the sum of the first 19 terms is ____?

- A 62
- B 56
- C 54
- D 60

Answer: B

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Question 63

What percentage of 1425 is 68.04?

- A 4.30%
- B 4.60%
- C 4.80%
- D 4.50%



Answer: C

Question 64

If Number A is $(0.99)^2 \times (0.99)^3$ and Number B is $(0.99)^6$, then which number is bigger?

- A Number A
- B Number B
- C Both numbers are equal
- D Cannot be determined

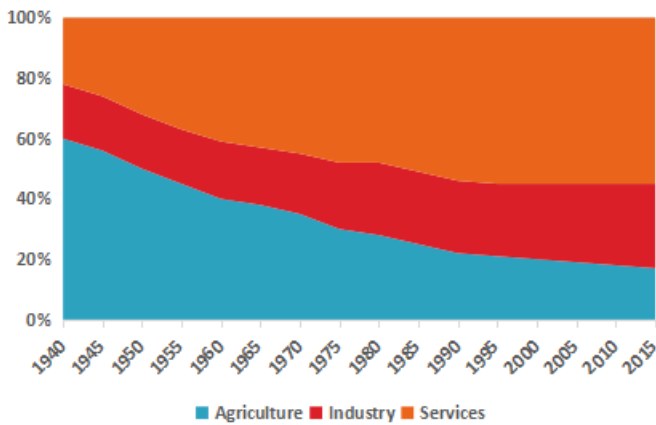
Answer: A

Question 65

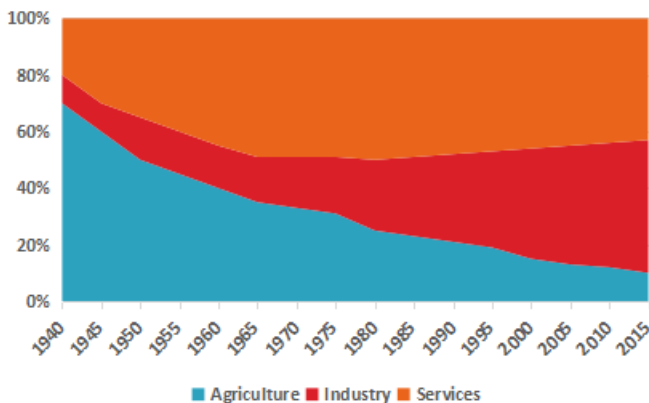
The following two figures show the contribution of the agricultural, industrial and services sectors to the economies of India and China respectively in the time period between 1940 and 2015. Based on the data represented in these figures, which of the following statements is TRUE:

- 1) India and China have both experienced similar economic trends in the past 75 years
- 2) The Chinese economy is dominated by industry whereas the Indian economy is dominated by the services sector
- 3) The Chinese economy is stronger than the Indian economy

India



China



- A The first two statements are true and the third statement cannot be assessed based on the graph
- B The first statement is true and the other two cannot be assessed based on the graph
- C None of the statements can be assessed based on the graph
- D All of the statements are true

Answer: B

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Question 66

If two numbers are in a ratio of 7:9 and their sum is 112, then which is the larger number?

- A 49
- B 72
- C 56
- D 63

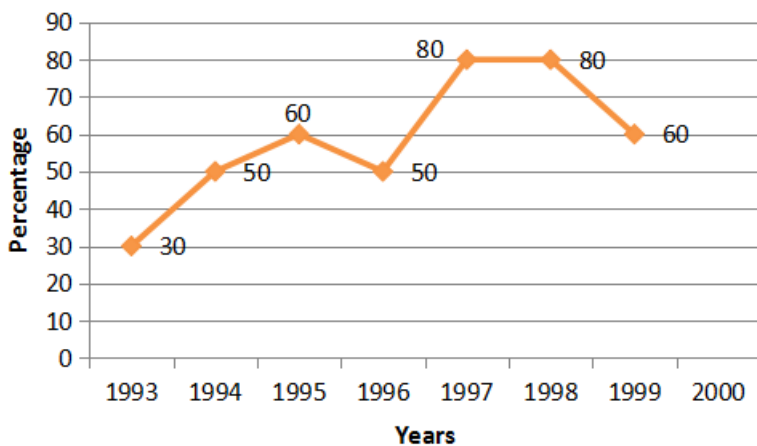
Answer: D

Instructions

Comprehension:

The given line graph shows the percentage of the number of candidates who qualified in an examination out of the total number of candidates who appeared for the examination over a period of seven years from 1994 to 2000. Answer the following two questions based on the graph

Percentage



Question 67

The percentage of candidates who qualified in the examination increased between 1994 and 1997 as well as between 1995 and 2000. Of these two time periods, in which time period was the percentage increase in the qualification of candidates the maximum?

- A 1995 to 2000
- B The two time periods cannot be compared
- C Increase was the same in both time periods
- D 1994 to 1997

Answer: D

Question 68

If the number of candidates that qualified in 1998 was 21200, what was the number of candidates that appeared in 1998?

- A 28500
- B 25000
- C 26500
- D 32000

Answer: C

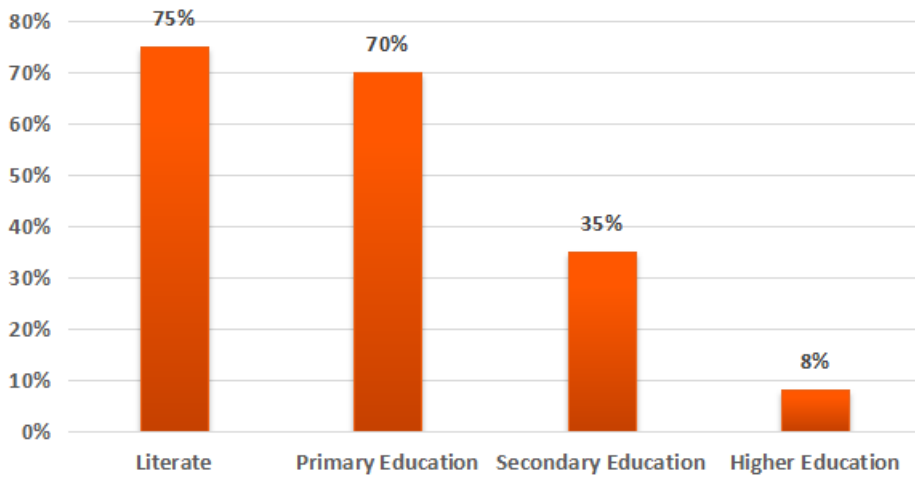
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Instructions

Comprehension:

The following bar chart shows the education level of men in Village X. Please answer the following two questions based on the bar chart.

Male Literacy in Village X



Question 69

If the number of literate men is 1200, what is the number of men who have attained secondary level education?

- A 560
- B 288
- C 392
- D 420

Answer: A

Question 70

If the population ratio (i.e. the proportion of men and women) in Village X is 10:8, and female literacy is 60%, estimate the number of literate women in Village X

- A 960

- B 576
- C 768
- D 720

Answer: C

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English Proficiency

Instructions

For the following questions answer them individually

Question 71

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

The teacher added the stipulation that all projects had to be _____; no student could carry out research on an area that had already been explored by someone else.

- A original
- B constructive
- C extensive
- D convincing

Answer: A

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Question 72

"Had you been at the disaster site, you would have understood the magnitude of the destruction."
Of the given options, which one does NOT mean 'magnitude' as used in the above sentence?

- A enormity
- B scale
- C significance
- D quantum

Answer: C

Question 73

Which option does NOT mean 'handed' in the sentence 'She handed the documents to the revenue officer'?

- A delivered
- B gave
- C handled
- D passed

Answer: C

Question 74

Choose the option that would make the sentence grammatically most correct.

The group of nurses are complaining about the lack of safety precautions in the hospital.

- A No change. The sentence is correct as is.
- B is complaining
- C were complained
- D did complaining

Answer: B

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Question 75

Read the given statement and answer the question that follows:

Whenever I eat an icecream, I get a cold.

Which of the following statements is/are **definitely** true:

- I. If I never eat an icecream, I will never get a cold.
- II. Eating an icecream is one of the reasons for me to get a cold.
- III. If I have a cold, I must have eaten an icecream.

- A II only
- B I, II and III
- C Both I and III
- D III only

Answer: A

Question 76

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

We were so delayed that the football match ___ by the time we ___.

- A already finished, arrived
- B had already finished, arrive
- C already finish, arrived
- D had already finished, arrived

Answer: D

Question 77

Choose the option that would make the sentence grammatically most correct.

Who's life is it anyway?

- A No change. The sentence is correct as is.
- B Whose life is it anyway?
- C Who life is it anyway?

D Whose's life is it anyway?

Answer: B

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Question 78

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

My wife and ___ will attend the function.

- A me
- B him
- C myself
- D I

Answer: D

Question 79

Choose the option that would make the sentence grammatically most correct.

The house as well as the garden were to be treated for a termite infestation.

- A No change, the sentence is correct as is.
- B The house as well as the garden is to be treated for a termite infestation.
- C The house as well as the garden are going to be treated for a termite infestation.
- D The house as well as the garden need to be treated for a termite infestation.

Answer: B

Question 80

Complete the sentence with the correct option

Nearly _____ by disease and the destruction of their habitat, Koalas are now found only in isolated parts of eucalyptus forests.

- A damaged
- B destroyed
- C decimated
- D dispersed

Answer: C

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Question 81

Which of the following is the closest in meaning to the word 'retribution'?

- A return
- B reinstatement

C reiteration

D revenge

Answer: D

Question 82

Identify the error in the sentence, if any:

Modern cinematography/(1) techniques are far superior to/(2) that employed in the past./ (3) No Error/(4)

A Modern cinematography

B are far superior to

C that employed in the past.

D No Error.

Answer: C

Question 83

Identify the error in the sentence, if any:

He wondered whether he could make it/(1) through the storm as there was no safe haven in sight/(2) and it was pouring cats and dogs, with the roads full of gushing water./ (3) Error./ (4)

A he could make it

B no safe haven in sight

C full with gushing water

D No Error.

Answer: C

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Question 84

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

It's a wonder that ----- still such a popular band even after twenty years of being on the music charts!

A they're

B their's

C there

D their

Answer: A

Question 85

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

None of the students prepared for the examination. As far as answering the examination paper was concerned, they were all_____.

A making their mark

- B sailing in the same boat
- C scoring a sitter
- D barking up the wrong tree

Answer: B

Question 86

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

The itinerary set by their travel agent included so many stops in a _____ amount of time that they received only the most _____ impressions of the places they visited.

- A sufficient ... cursory
- B generousabiding
- C brief....fleeting
- D limited ... lasting

Answer: C

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Question 87

Identify the error in the sentence, if any:

In this way nuclear fission/(1) or the splitting of the atoms/(2) have been achieved./(3) No Error./(4)

- A In this way nuclear fission
- B or the splitting of the atoms
- C have been achieved.
- D No Error.

Answer: C

Question 88

Complete the sentence with the correct option.

Ms. Kapoor recommended perseverance and _____ in dealing with the activists rather than the uncompromising approach the government had adopted.

- A patience
- B persistence
- C joviality
- D acrimony

Answer: A

Question 89

Complete the sentence with the correct option:

The land reforms were diluted, if not sabotaged, in _____ with politicians and highly placed legal officials.

- A collusion
- B agreement
- C pandemonium
- D cooperation

Answer: A

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Question 90

Identify the error in the sentence, if any:

Neither the Bank manager nor the other/(1) staff members was able/(2) to calm the distressed client.//(3) No Error/(4)

- A nor the other
- B was able
- C the distressed client
- D No Error.

Answer: B

Instructions

Read the following passage and answer the FIVE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

To those who do listen, the desert speaks of things with an emphasis quite different from that of the shore, the mountain, the valley or the plains. Whereas these invite action and suggest limitless opportunity and exhaust less resources, the implications and the mood of the desert are something different. For one thing, the desert is conservative and not radical. It is more likely to provide awe than to invite conquest. The heroism which it encourages is the heroism of endurance, not that of conquest. It brings man up against this limitation, turns him upon himself and suggests values which more indulgent regions suppress. Sometimes it includes contemplation in men who have never contemplated before. And of all the answers to the question- what is a desert good for - 'contemplation' is perhaps the best.

Question 91

In order to receive the desert's message, the beholder needs to be

- A a good listener
- B courageous in his reaction
- C reflective by nature
- D conservative in his responses

Answer: C

Question 92

The phrase "it brings man up against his limitations" indicates that _____

- A man feels hopeless about his limitations
- B man is made aware of his limitations.

- C man is persuaded to overcome his limitations.
- D man is compelled to fight against his limitations

Answer: B

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Question 93

The desert is unique among landscapes in that it is relatively_____.

- A constant
- B judgemental
- C adventurous
- D conventional

Answer: A

Question 94

The writer calls the desert "conservative rather than radical" because it provides an environment that _____.

- A inspires one to test one's endurance
- B makes one gloomy
- C inspires man to explore it
- D offers unlimited opportunity to conquer it

Answer: A

Question 95

If one responds with insight to the mood of the desert, it evokes

- A intense conflict
- B deep thoughtfulness
- C heroic conquest
- D resourcefulness

Answer: B

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Instructions

Read the following passage and answer the FIVE questions that follow.

Comprehension:

Before the grass has thickened on the roadside verges and leaves have started growing on the trees is a perfect time to look around and see just how dirty Britain has become. The pavements are stained with chewing gum that has been spat out and the gutters are full of discarded fast food cartons. Years ago I remember travelling abroad and being saddened by the plastic bags, discarded bottles and soiled nappies at the edge of every road. Nowadays, Britain seems to look at least as bad. What has gone wrong?

The problem is that the rubbish created by our increasingly mobile lives lasts a lot longer than before. If it is not cleared up and properly thrown away, it stays in the undergrowth for years; a semi-permanent reminder of what a tatty little country we have now.

Firstly, it is estimated that 10 billion plastic bags have been given to shoppers. These will take anything from 100 to 1,000 years to rot. However, it is not as if there is no solution to this. A few years ago, the Irish government introduced a tax on non-recyclable carrier bags and in three months reduced their use by 90%. When he was a minister, Michael Meacher attempted to introduce a similar arrangement in Britain. The plastics industry protested, of course. However, they need not have bothered; the idea was killed before it could draw breath, leaving supermarkets free to give away plastic bags.

What is clearly necessary right now is some sort of combined initiative, both individual and collective, before it is too late. The alternative is to continue sliding downhill until we have a country that looks like a vast municipal rubbish tip. We may well be at the tipping point. Yet we know that people respond to their environment. If things around them are clean and tidy, people behave cleanly and tidily. If they are surrounded by squalor, they behave squalidly. Now, much of Britain looks pretty squalid. What will it look like in five years?

Question 96

It is general knowledge that

- A people behave according to what they see around them.
- B people are like a vast municipal rubbish tip.
- C people are clean and tidy.
- D people are squalid.

Answer: A

Question 97

Michael Meacher

- A issued orders to follow the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags.
- B tried to follow the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags.
- C followed the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags.
- D questioned the plastics industry who weren't bothered about the tax

Answer: B

Question 98

According to the writer, years ago, things used to be

- A the same abroad as compared to Britain
- B better abroad as compared to Britain
- C worse abroad as compared to Britain
- D worse, but now things are better abroad

Answer: C

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Question 99

For the writer, the problem is that

- A rubbish lasts longer than it used to.
- B Britain is a tatty country.
- C rubbish is not cleared up.
- D our society is increasingly mobile.

Answer: A

Question 100

The writer thinks

- A we need to work together to solve the problem.
- B we are at the tipping point.
- C it is too late to do anything.
- D there is no alternative.

Answer: A

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